



SECRETARY OF STATE  
**KEVIN SHELLEY**  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

January 31, 2005

Hon. Gracia Hillman, Chair  
United States Election Assistance Commission  
1225 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Hillman:

Enclosed please find California's "**Report On Absentee Ballots Transmitted and Received After General Elections**", as required by section 703 of the Help America Vote Act.

In sum:

- (a) 62,469 Californians, either in the military or as citizens living overseas, registered to vote for the November 2, 2004 Presidential General election.
- (b) Of these, 44,686, or approximately 71.5%, cast ballots.
- (c) Of these voted ballots, 4,829 (10.8%) voted their ballots by FAX.

Our office has made significant efforts to reach out to military and overseas citizens, to provide them with information, and to assist them in voting. Most significantly, California law has long identified overseas and military voters as "special absentee" voters; this makes them eligible to be mailed their absentee ballots 60 days in advance of the election, instead of the 29 days for regular absentee voters and more than 2 weeks longer than what is recommended by the Federal Voting Assistance Program. Additionally, Chapter 821, Statutes of 2004 was newly enacted to permit military and overseas voters to apply for and return their voted ballots by FAX. As you can see from the attached chart comparing the March Primary and the November General elections, this change in law appears to be responsible, at least in part, for a more than 10-fold increase in the number of voted ballots received from military and overseas voters.

In terms of our report, there are a couple of comments I would like to offer. First, as you know, Section 703 requires, in pertinent part, each state to report on:

"...the combined number of absentee ballots transmitted to absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters for the election, and the combined number of such ballots which were returned by such

voters and cast in the election...”

In addition, Section 707 requires, again in pertinent part, that:

“...if the State rejects the application or request, the State shall provide the voter with reasons for the rejection.”

Please note that, despite the HAVA requirement for only “combined” totals, this report indicates separately, and for each of the 58 counties in California, the number of persons registered to vote as either military or overseas citizens, as well as the number of persons in each of these categories who actually cast ballots. Please note that most county elections officials do not track “domestic” versus “overseas” military as separate categories

Please note also that Section 707 does not require that information detailing the nature of rejected ballots be tracked, counties in general were not tracking this information, and as a result we were not able to gather this information from counties.

Our report indicates data from the March 2, 2004 California Primary election. We include it here for your information and for comparison.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please feel free to contact me directly at 916/653-3228.

Sincerely,

JOHN MOTT-SMITH  
Chief, Elections Division

Hava/movreporttoeac-015

## Report On Absentee Ballots Transmitted and Received After General Elections

	NOVEMBER 2004 ELECTION							MARCH 2004 PRIMARY						
	Registered to Vote			Voted				by Fascimile	Registered to Vote			Voted		
	Military Citizens	Overseas Citizens	TOTAL	Military Citizens	Overseas Citizens	TOTAL	Military Citizens		Overseas Citizens	TOTAL	Military Citizens	Overseas Citizens	TOTAL	
Alameda	2297	1542	3839	1807	1453	3260	73	440	176	616	193	130	323	
Alpine	2	1	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Amador	18	6	24	10	2	12	3	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	
Butte	303	196	499	125	149	274	30	118	53	171	16	18	34	
Calaveras	58	17	75	36	15	51	5	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	
Colusa	18	0	18	20	3	23	0	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	
Contra Costa	840	1809	2649	514	1332	1846	272	201	145	346	35	47	82	
Del Norte	28	4	32	7	2	9	0	10	4	14	0	0	0	
El Dorado	161	113	274	96	88	184	30	5	3	8	2	2	4	
Fresno	475	147	622	257	115	372	17	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	
Glenn	59	16	75	32	13	45	0	26	8	34	6	3	9	
Humboldt	179	156	335	145	151	296	3	n/a	n/a	0	29	20	49	
Imperial	203	17	220	44	1	45	2	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	
Inyo	20	12	32	12	11	23	0	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	
Kern	903	333	1236	546	286	832	69	440	145	145		62	62	
Kings	172	12	184	153	10	163	10	145	12	157	121	6	127	
Lake	98	87	185	65	70	135	0	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	
Lassen	103	8	111	64	6	70	5	25	2	27	10	1	11	
Los Angeles	279	4721	5000	137	3926	4063	1120	62	245	307	16	139	155	
Madera		81	81		50	50	14		35	35	n/a	n/a	0	
Marin	196	970	1166	45	459	504	15	20	128	148	11	46	57	
Mariposa	6	21	27	3	17	20	5	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	
Mendocino		230	230		162	162	2		16	16		8	8	
Merced	163	82	245	194	121	315	14	97	26	123	n/a	n/a	0	
Modoc	1	1	2	5	1	6	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	
Mono	11	4	15	9	1	10	3	6	1	7	4	0	4	
Monterey	1049	405	1454	767	327	1094	145	787	325	1112	219	88	307	
Napa	182	187	369			0	23		33	33	n/a	n/a	0	
Nevada	177	102	279	101	95	196	76	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	
Orange		3808	3808	836		836	419		478	478		157	157	
Placer	488	134	622	353	95	448	161	55	81	136	12	27	39	
Plumas	6	5	11	10	8	18	0	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	
Riverside	1238	504	1742	669	971	1640	107	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	
Sacramento	2318	856	3174	1354	670	2024	52	596	115	711	242	73	315	
San Benito	15	5	20	3	7	10	2	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	
San Bernardino	967	734	1701	623	381	1004	10	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	
San Diego	7,478	1,533	9011	5,032	1,323	6355	1,369	718	208	926	185	116	301	
San Francisco	440	4469	4909	362	3969	4331	104	108	732	840	80	671	751	
San Joaquin	n/a	n/a		786	256	1042	28	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	
San Luis Obispo	271	396	667	228	332	560	46	33	63	96	n/a	n/a	0	
San Mateo	380	1403	1783	260	1361	1621	197	40	90	130	15	87	102	
Santa Barbara	594	939	1533	381	607	988	174	55	87	142	32	49	81	
Santa Clara	1011	3476	4487	651	2780	3431	29	166	340	506	74	135	209	
Santa Cruz	173	905	1078	105	807	912	78	35	85	120	11	47	58	
Shasta	334	129	463	201	108	309	25	22	3	25	4	2	6	
Sierra	8	5	13	4	4	8	3	3	4	7	0	2	2	
Siskiyou	32	10	42	79	30	109	11	102	2	104	19	0	19	
Solano	893	337	1230	610	294	904	55	145	66	211	69	33	102	
Sonoma		1127	1127	798		798	25	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	
Stanislaus	580	271	851	349	223	572	73	96	48	144	28	17	45	
Sutter	146	80	226		82	82	12	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	
Tehama	127	17	144	89	16	105	0	25	1	26	15	1	16	
Trinity	27	3	30	18	1	19	2	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	
Tulare	431	106	537	270	93	363	30		144	144		51	51	

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	Military Citizens	Overseas Citizens			Military Citizens	Overseas Citizens			Military Citizens	Overseas Citizens		Military Citizens	Overseas Citizens	
Tuolumne	89	50	139	50	37	87	22	20	8	28	6	3	9	
Ventura	2497	188	2685	1183	89	1272	36	1021	126	1147	120	45	165	
Yolo	395	52	447	344	33	377	18	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	
Yuba	698	10	708	396	4	400	15	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	0	
TOTAL	29637	32832	62469	21238	23448	44686	5041	5183	4038	9221	1575	2086	3661	

Note: Some counties were unable to separately report Military & Overseas Citizens; in these instances the total number of voters is indicated in the Overseas Citizens column.